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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Renzo Bazzocchi, et al.

Ser. No. 10/036,264

Group Art Unit: 2171

Filed: December 26, 2001

Examiner:

Assignee: ABB Service s.r.l. and ABB Inc.

For: Real Time Asset Optimization

Docket No. E20010260

December 30, 2002

Cleveland, Ohio 44092

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Technology Center 2100

NONFEE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner
For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the first examination please amend the above identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the Summary of the Invention in its entirety and insert in place the following (attached hereto is a marked version of this replacement showing the changes made therein):

A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) receiving at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) receiving at least one order for production of a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) using a predetermined criteria to evaluate the at least one received maintenance trigger and the production order to propose therefrom one or more solutions for jointly scheduling the maintenance action and the at least one production order.